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Media Release

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POLICE SQUAD BIRTHDAY REQUEST PROGRAM

Since the Stay-At-Home order was issued by Governor Pritzker, all of our lives have been changed in ways we never previously considered. Things that all of us took for granted are no longer taking place. Tragically, many of our youth are missing out on events that they will never be able to replace. Specifically, I think of all the young athletes in high school and college who have trained for most of their lives to perform and now have lost sport seasons; the high school seniors who missed out on prom and the last days of high school; or the thousands of area high school and college students who are unable to attend their graduations and celebrate with their families.

All of us are finding new ways to cope with our current situation. One small thing which is happening in our city is the occurrence of grass-root parades for our medical professionals; where people can show their appreciation for the hard work they are doing while practicing safe social distancing. Another example is the Joliet Police Department's implementation of a Birthday Police Squad Request Program. Upon request, a Police Officer will stop by a birthday child's house to flash the emergency lights and sirens. While it is a small gesture, I commend the men and women of the Joliet Police Department for taking the time to bring happiness to our young people who cannot understand what is happening in our world. If your child has a birthday coming up during this time of lockdown and you wish to have a squad visit, please complete the request form which can be found on the the City of Joliet's website at: <https://www.joliet.gov/departments/police-department/resources/documents-permit-applications/birthday-squad-request>.

Thank you to all of our first responders for their hard work, thank you to their families that now share the risks of their jobs, and thank you to all Joliet residents for pulling together during this time of pandemic.

Robert O'Dekirk
Mayor